MARVEL COMICS
FELICIA HARDY:
THE BLACK CAT
FABULOUS FIRST ISSUE!
GUEST-STARRING
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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Stan Lee presents

FELICIA HARDY: THE BLACK CAT

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...HE'S BUSY TONIGHT!
WHY DO YOU DEFEND THIS PLACE, SPIDER-MAN?
THIS PHARMACEUTICAL CONCERN IS A DEN OF THIEVES!
OR PERHAPS YOU STAND TO PROFIT BY HELPING THEM?
KRZZZ

WELL, HEY, I'M NOT A STOCKHOLDER IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, CARDIAC!
IT'S HARD TO READ THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND WEB SWING AT THE SAME TIME.
BUT IF YOU THINK RUNNING AROUND ON A ROOFTOP, BETA-BLASTING OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY CONSTITUTES LEGAL BEHAVIOR...
...I'M HERE TO GET YOU STRAIGHT.
PROUDLY PRESENTING THE BLACK CAT IN HER FIRST LIMITED SERIES!
CHIMERA LOST PART 1 OF 4
SHARP TURNS
TERRY KAVANAGH PLOTTER/CO-SCRIPTER (#3-#4)
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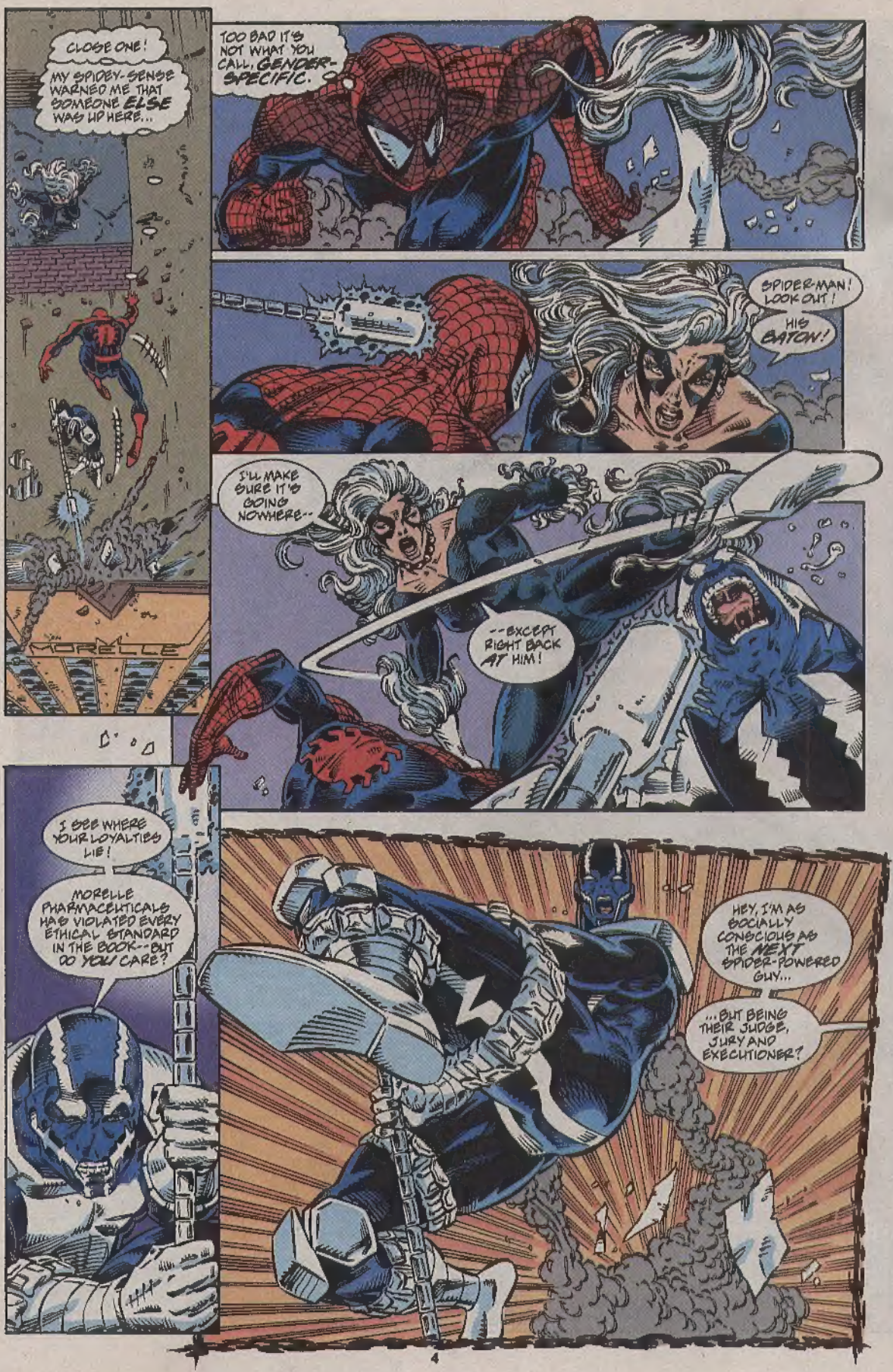
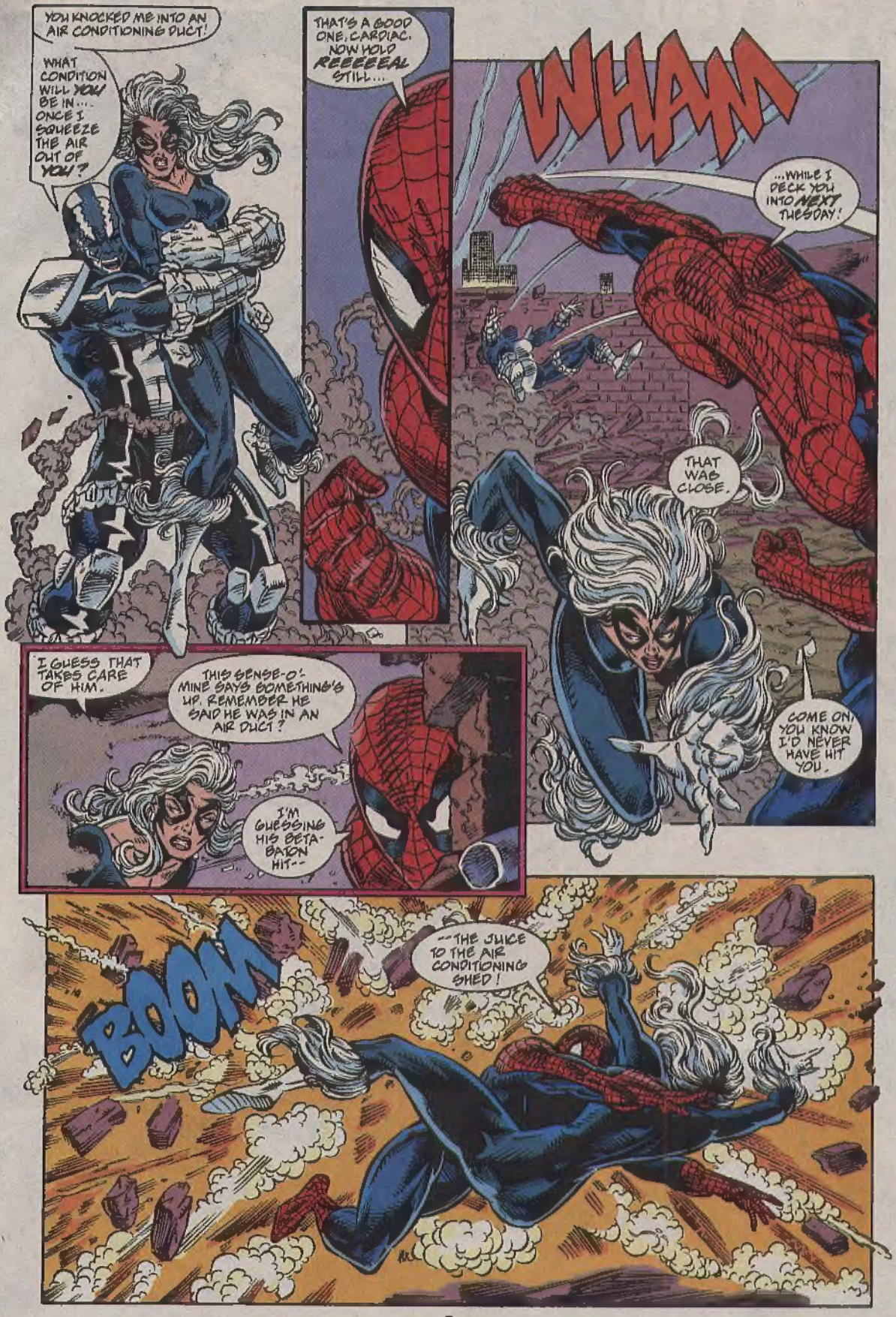

CLOSE ONE!
MY SPIDEY-SENSE WARNED ME THAT SOMEONE ELSE WAS UP HERE...
TOO BAD IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CALL, GENDER-SPECIFIC.
SPIDER-MAN! LOOK OUT!
HIS EATON!
I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S GOING NOWHERE--
--EXCEPT RIGHT BACK AT HIM!
MORELLE
I SEE WHERE YOUR LOYALTIES LIE!
MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS HAS VIOLATED EVERY ETHICAL STANDARD IN THE BOOK--BUT DO YOU CARE?
HEY, I'M AS SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS AS THE NEXT SPIDER-POWERED GUY...
...BUT BEING THEIR JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER?

I MEAN, HEY, DO THEY GO AROUND SAYING THESE THINGS ABOUT YOU?
PEOPLE MAKE THEIR LIVING IN THIS PLACE AND YOU'RE ENDANGERING THEM, CARDIAC...
...I'LL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU PUT WHERE YOU CAN'T HARM ANYONE!
SKRUNCH
HUH? I DIDN'T HIT HIM THAT HARD!
HIS BETA-BATON BROKE THE WALL... BUT WHERE'D HE GO?
RIGHT, BEHIND YOU!
WHOA!

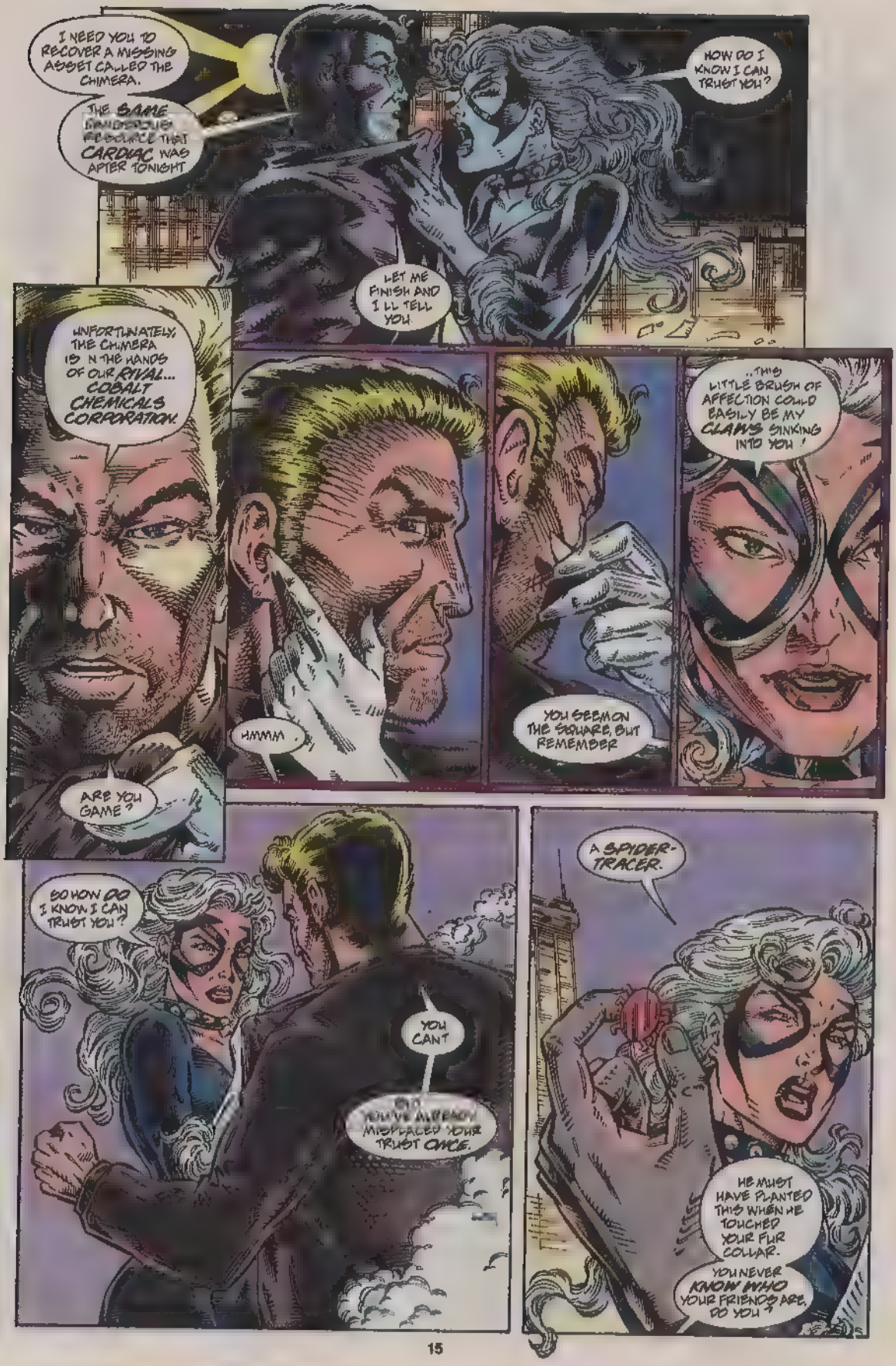

YOU KNOCKED ME INTO AN AIR CONDITIONING DUCT!
WHAT CONDITION WILL YOU BE IN.... ONCE I SQUEEZE THE AIR OUT OF YOU!?
THAT'S A GOOD ONE, CARDIAC. NOW HOLD REEEEEAL STILL...
WHAM
...WHILE I DECK YOU INTO NEXT TUESDAY!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
COME ON! YOU KNOW I'D NEVER HAVE HIT YOU.
I GUESS THAT TAKES CARE OF HIM.
THIS SENSE-O'-MINE SAYS SOMETHING'S UP. REMEMBER HE SAID HE WAS IN AN AIR DUCT?
I'M GUESSING HIS BETA-BATON HIT--
BOOM
--THE JUICE TO THE AIR CONDITIONING SHED!

CARDIAC'S GLIDER.
MUST BE HANDY. BEATS CALLING A CAB.
IT'S REMOTE CONTROL. WHICH MEANS--
--HE'S ALIVE!
AND ABLE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY!
HEY, SPIDER! I COULD USE A HAND, YOU KNOW.
THAT DAY--
--IS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK!
HANG ON! WE'VE GOT OTHER PROBLEMS!

SPIDER-MAN?
SOMETHING'S WRONG--
--OR HE'D BE CHEWING ME OUT ABOUT NOW FOR GOING AFTER CARDIAC.
HEY, SPIDER--
--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WEBBING THE AIR CONDITIONING'S SECOND CONTROL BOX.
IT'S ABOUT TO BLOW.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
MY... PROFESSION... REQUIRES A SURE KNOWLEDGE OF ELECTRONICS, AND DISABLING POWER SYSTEMS FOR INFILTRATION PURPOSES.
THIS SYSTEM WON'T ATTAIN CRITICAL MASS IF I SEVER THE CONNECTION...
...THERE.
THE PEOPLE INSIDE ARE SAFE.
REMIND ME TO TAKE A NIGHT COURSE.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY.

SORRY. THAT DOESN'T DESCRIBE ME THESE DAYS.
FOR ONE THING, I'D HAVE SAVED THE NIGHT WORKERS AND BAGGED CARDIAC... IF YOU HADN'T INTERFERED!
BESIDES, I HAVE SO MANY PROBLEMS* THESE DAYS I CAN BARELY COPE--
*FOR THE INSIDE SCOOP ON SPIDEY'S HARDSHIPS, CHECK OUT ALL HIS MONTHLY TITLES.--ERIC
PROBLEMS?
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WITH PROBLEMS?
ALL RIGHT, LOOK, I'M SORRY, OKAY?
YOU PROBABLY CAME OUT TONIGHT LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TELL YOUR PROBLEMS TO...
SO?
SO I'M HERE.
THE BOUNTY.
CARDIAC'S PROBABLY GOT A PRICE ON HIS HEAD.
NOW I'VE LOST IT.
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY. MAKE A BUCK.
THAT'S ALL ANYBODY EVER THINKS ABOUT.
I WAS IN A MOOD, AND NOW I FEEL JUSTIFIED.
YOU HAVEN'T LET ME DOWN, CAT. YOU'RE LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.

OH, LIKE I'D TELL YOU WHAT'S ON MY MIND AFTER THE WAY YOU JUST TREATED ME.
BREAKING UP WITH FLASH, BEING ALONE AGAIN... IT'S ALL GETTING TO ME...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M A FOOL FOR JUST ANY MAN WHO COMES ALONG--
--HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF SNEAKING UP ON ME?
SORRY. MY NAME IS PAUL PROUST. I'M A REPRESENTATIVE OF MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS.
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR ACTING IN OUR BEHALF. WE'RE GRATEFUL.
I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING THAT YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED IN LOSING A BOUNTY ON CARDIAC. IF MONEY IS YOUR PROBLEM...
...WE'D BE EQUALLY GRATEFUL-- AND GENEROUS-- IF YOU'D UNDERTAKE A SMALL COMMISSION.
WHAT KIND OF COMMISSION?

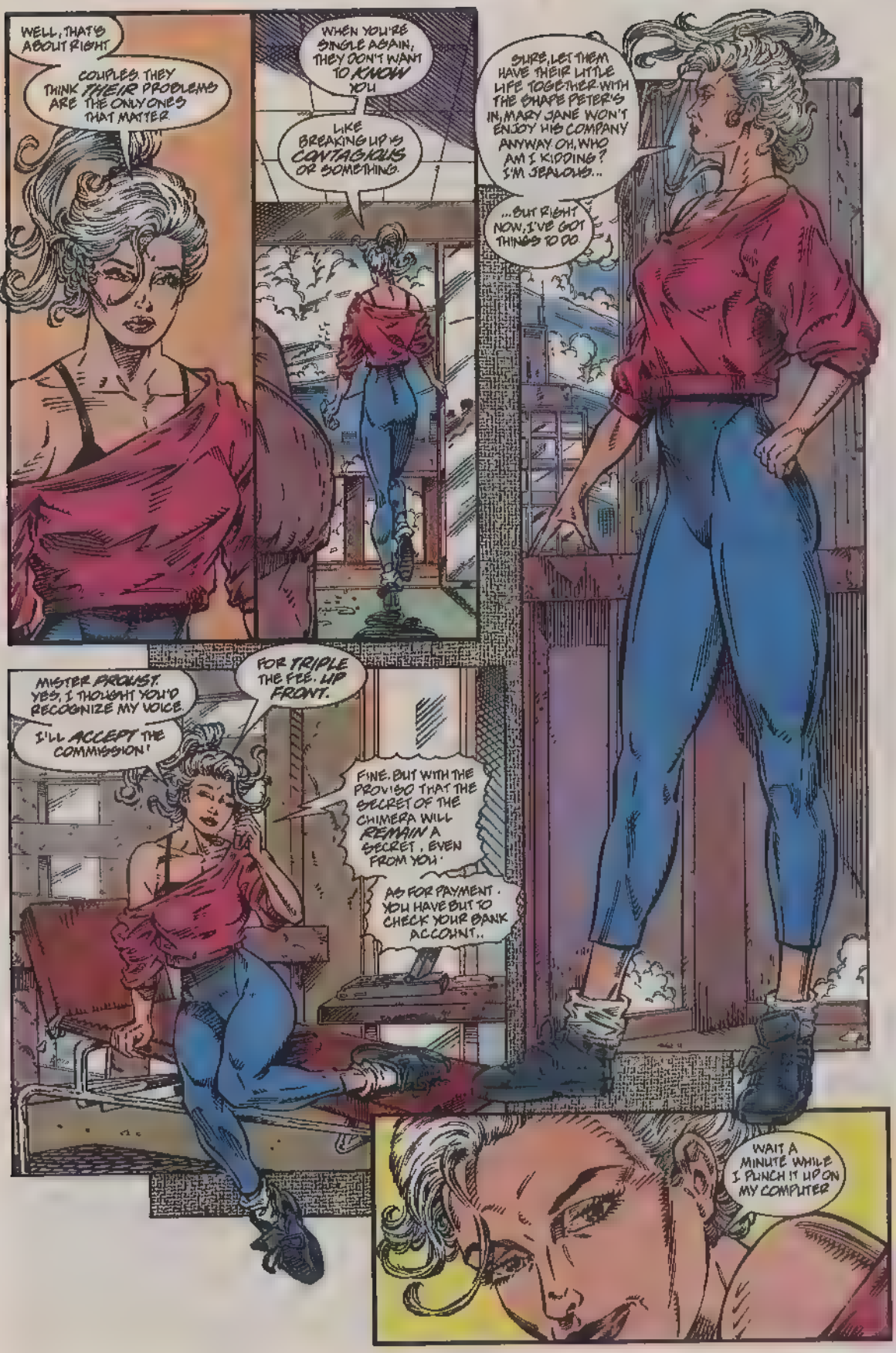

I NEED YOU TO RECOVER A MISSING ASSET CALLED THE CHIMERA.
THE SAME UNDERCOVER RESOURCE THAT CARDIAC WAS AFTER TONIGHT
HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU?
LET ME FINISH AND I'LL TELL YOU.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE CHIMERA IS IN THE HANDS OF OUR RIVAL... COBALT CHEMICALS CORPORATION.
ARE YOU GAME?
HMMM
YOU SEEM ON THE SQUARE, BUT REMEMBER
...THIS LITTLE BRUSH OF AFFECTION COULD EASILY BE MY CLAWS SINKING INTO YOU!
SO HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU?
YOU CAN'T
YOU'VE ALREADY MISPLACED YOUR TRUST ONCE.
A SPYDER-TRACER.
HE MUST HAVE PLANTED THIS WHEN HE TOUCHED YOUR FUR COLLAR.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE, DO YOU?

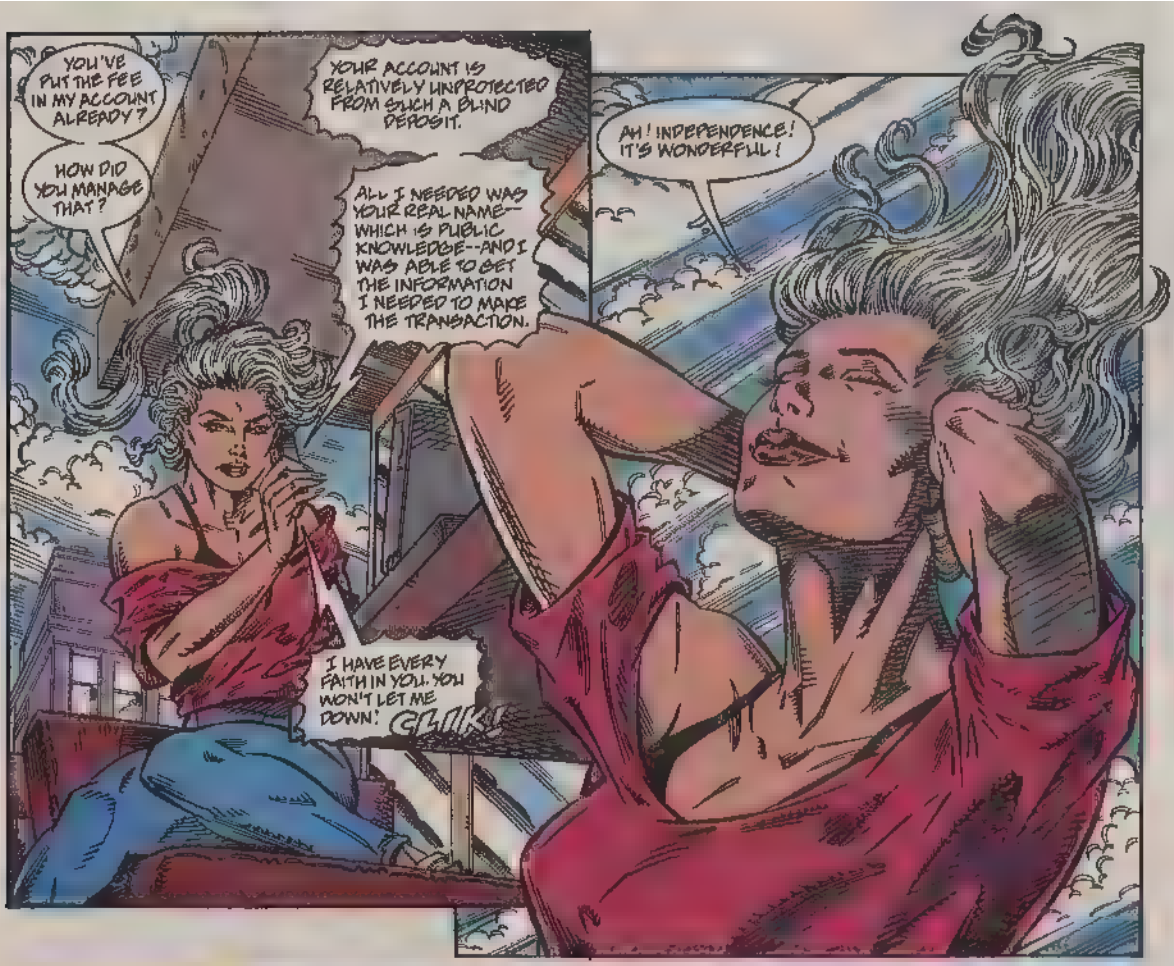
THE HOSPITAL WING OF A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN UPSTATE NEW YORK...
HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE LOW AGAIN.
I DON'T GIVE MUCH FOR HIS CHANCES OF SURVIVAL.
I'M NOT SURPRISED.
IT WOULD BE HARD TO CARE FOR ANY PATIENT .. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS!
I KNOW. I FEEL LIKE WE ARE THE ONES UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
OUR WATCH GUARANTEES YOUR SAFETY..
..AS WELL AS THE SAFETY OF THE PATIENT...
"...IF HE'S DISCOVERED BY THE PEOPLE HE BETRAYED!"

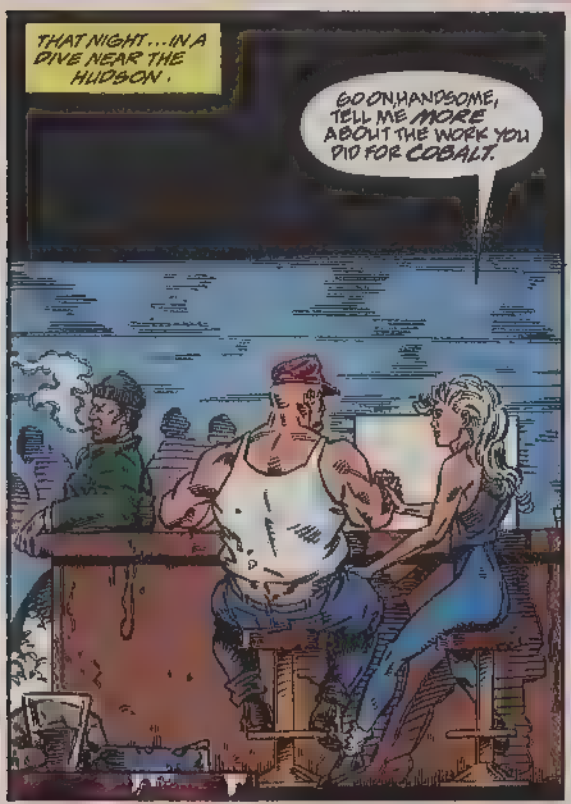
NEXT DAY. THE APARTMENT OF FELICIA HARDY...
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT, FEL.CIA?
YOU SOUND LIKE THE VOICE IN MY HEAD, M.J.
I MUST ASK MYSELF THAT QUESTION IN THE MIRROR EVERY MORNING.
IT'S ALMOST REFRESHING TO HEAR IT COME FROM OUTSIDE, INSTEAD OF BOUNCING OFF THE FOUR WALLS OF MY CRANIUM
IF IT'S NOT THE BREAKUP... IT'S THE NEED FOR SOME KIND OF CAREER MOVE.
SO WHAT ARE YOU--
"--GONNA DO?" YES, YOU ASKED THAT, MARY-JANE.
I DUNNO. HOW DOES MODELING SOUND?
SOUNDS LIKE A PROFESSION FOR... A MUCH YOUNGER WOMAN

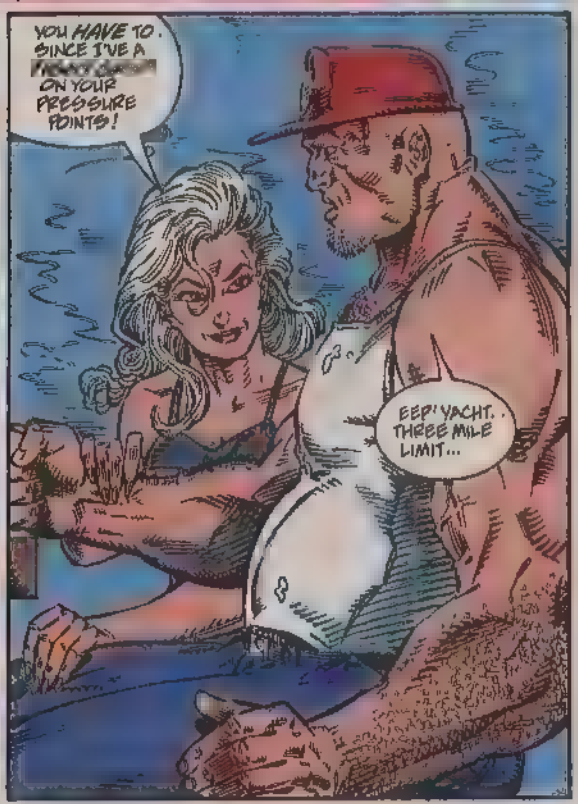
OUCH.
STILL I CAN'T GET OVER HOW YOU REFUSE TO GET JEALOUS.
NOT SO IT SHOWS, ANYWAY.
IT'S NOT THAT I MEAN, I FEEL RELAXED AROUND PETER, ABLE TO TELL HIM ANYTHING.
OR I DID ONCE.
I DON'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU, BUT THE PETER I SAW LAST NIGHT WAS A DIFFERENT MAN.
DIFFERENT, HEY? THEN MAYBE THE OTHER GUY CAN PICK UP MY WIFE AND BRING HER HOME.
LET ME TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THE TWO OF YOU COMPARING NOTES ABOUT ME OVER THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE. SHOULD I CHANGE MY NAME TO JEAN-LUC?
YOU'VE GOT NERVE TALKING ABOUT US!
WHAT WAS THE IDEA OF PLANTING YOUR SPIDER-TRACER ON ME?

I ONLY WANTED TO TRACK YOU DOWN AND APOLOGIZE...
...BUT THE BUG WAS DEACTIVATED, AND THEN I--THEN I--
PETER!
YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD.
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.
CAN'T STOP NOW THERE'S WORK THAT HAS TO BE DONE.*
*SEE CURRENT SPIDEY TITLES FOR ALL THE DETAILS.--ERIC
HERE COVER YOUR COSTUME WITH THIS
OH.
COME ON M.J.
I'LL CALL YOU LATER
SURE...
THEY WERE FLASH'S. HE LEFT THEM WHEN WE.. BROKE UP.
...LATER


WELL, THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT
COUPLES. THEY THINK THEIR PROBLEMS ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT MATTER.
WHEN YOU'RE SINGLE AGAIN, THEY DON'T WANT TO KNOW YOU
LIKE BREAKING UP IS CONTAGIOUS OR SOMETHING.
SURE, LET THEM HAVE THEIR LITTLE LIFE TOGETHER WITH THE SHAPE PETER'S IN, MARY JANE WON'T ENJOY HIS COMPANY ANYWAY. OH, WHO AM I KIDDING? I'M JEALOUS...
...BUT RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO.
MISTER PROUST. YES, I THOUGHT YOU'D RECOGNIZE MY VOICE.
I'LL ACCEPT THE COMMISSION!
FOR TRIPLE THE FEE. UP FRONT.
FINE. BUT WITH THE PROVISO THAT THE SECRET OF THE CHIMERA WILL REMAIN A SECRET, EVEN FROM YOU.
AS FOR PAYMENT. YOU HAVE BUT TO CHECK YOUR BANK ACCOUNT..
WAIT A MINUTE WHILE I PUNCH IT UP ON MY COMPUTER


YOU'VE PUT THE FEE IN MY ACCOUNT ALREADY?
HOW DID YOU MANAGE THAT?
YOUR ACCOUNT IS RELATIVELY UNPROTECTED FROM SUCH A BLIND DEPOSIT.
ALL I NEEDED WAS YOUR REAL NAME—WHICH IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE--AND I WAS ABLE TO GET THE INFORMATION I NEEDED TO MAKE THE TRANSACTION.
I HAVE EVERY FAITH IN YOU. YOU WON'T LET ME DOWN!
CLICK!
AH! INDEPENDENCE! IT'S WONDERFUL!


THAT NIGHT...IN A DIVE NEAR THE HUDSON.
GO ON, HANDSOME, TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE WORK YOU DID FOR COBALT.


YOU HAVE TO. SINCE I'VE A [redacted] ON YOUR PRESSURE POINTS!
EEP! YACHT. THREE MILE LIMIT...

"THEY RENDEZVOUS... WITH CHOPPERS..."
BOOM!
WHAT WAS THE SOURCE? ANYBODY GET THE TRAJECTORY?
YOW! WHAT WAS THAT?
THE FLARE I JUST SET OFF SHOULD KEEP THEM DISTRACTED FOR A FEW MINUTES. AMPLE TIME FOR ME TO DO MY THING.
THIS YACHT BELONGS TO THE COBALT CHEMICAL CORPORATION ACCORDING TO PROUST THEY HAVE THE CHIMERA...
.. AND FROM WHAT I LEARNED FROM THAT GUY AT THE BAR, SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON HERE...
ELECTRO-ENHANCED CLAMS WILL DIG THROUGH THE SIDE OF EVEN THIS CRAFT
SO I STAY OUT OF SIGHT... AND OUT OF THE DRINK!
...WHICH MAKES THIS THE PERFECT JUMPING ON POINT FOR MY INVESTIGATION.

THE TIMETABLE STARTS NOW.
IN FOUR MINUTES FLAT--
--THE COPTER WILL FINISH DOCKING--
--AND THESE JOKERS WILL STOP SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS LONG ENOUGH TO GET THEIR SECURITY BACK ON LINE.
THE WAY TO STAY OUT OF THEIR SIGHT LINE.
...IS TO SWING DIRECTLY OVERHEAD...
...WHERE THEY'D LEAST EXPECT A SINGLE INTRUDER TO SHOW UP!

CIRCULATION VENT SHOULD BE RIGHT HERE...
...JUST LIKE IT SAYS ON THE BLUEPRINTS I "BORROWED" FROM THE MANUFACTURERS.
SPIDER-MAN THOUGHT I WAS KIDDING WHEN I SAID I HAD THE SURE KNOWLEDGE OF EVERY KIND OF SYSTEM...
DOES HE THINK I'D PULL THIS FROM "JAYNES BOOK OF SHIPS"... OR A TOM CLANCY NOVEL?
"NOTHING TO CHANCE" IS THIS CAT'S MOTTO.
COPTER'S READY FOR LAUNCH AGAIN.
KEEP AN EYE ON 'ER THIS TIME.
WHOEVER PULLED THAT STUNT MIGHT STRIKE AGAIN!

GOOD GUESS.
DONT WASTE--
--YOUR TIME--
--DRAWING YOUR--
--WEAPONS!
ELECTRO-CLAWS LET ME RIP 'EM IN HALF!
YIKES!

OF COURSE, I'D NEVER USE THEM ON A BABY-FACE LIKE YOURS.
UNLESS YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT? ENJOYING THE SEA BREEZES?
CAUTION
IT'S S-S-STRICTLY NEED-TO-KNOW.
WE'RE ONLY TOLD THAT IT'S CALLED OPERATION: FIRST STRIKE.
PLEASE. YOU'RE HURTING ME.
DON'T WORRY. THE NECK PINCH I JUST GAVE YOU WILL KEEP YOU KNOCKED OUT FOR HOURS.
IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE GOT TO SEE IF THIS FIRST STRIKE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH CHIMERA.
THERE'S SOMETHING CHILLING ABOUT HOW CLINICAL IT ALL LOOKS.
THIS FRANKENSTEIN LAB LOOKS READY FOR THEM... WHOEVER THEY ARE... TO BE TAKEN ALIVE.
I'LL FEED A VIRUS TO THE SECURITY SYSTEM.
BUT THAT WILL ONLY BUY ME TEN MINUTES UNTIL--

FREEZE, CAT. YOU'RE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. AND COBALT DIDN'T HIRE FAZE AND HIS MECHABYTES TO LET TRESPASSERS RUN FREE.
WHOA! SOME GUY PHASING THROUGH THE WALL! SOME DAYS IT JUST DOESN'T PAY TO BE ME.
TO BE CONTINUED!